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Message Text

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71
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 /133 W
---------- 016791
R 162006Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1799
INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
USUN NEW YORK 540
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, VE, CU, DR, JM
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CALDERA WILL NOT TRAVEL TO CUBA OR ELSEWHERE
BEFORE THE ELECTIONS

REF: CARACAS 9000, 8697, 7215 AND 8018

1. AT HIS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 15 PRESIDENT CALDERA WAS ASKED IF HE HAD CANCELLED HIS PLANS TO TRAVEL TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, JAMAICA, CUBA AND NEW YORK. CALDERA RESPONDED, "I HAVE REALIZED THAT THE ELECTORAL CONTEST, THE POLITICAL DEBATE COULD MAKE THIS TRIP NOT BE THE SAME AS MY PREVIOUS TRIPS ABROAD, THAT IS, A MISSION IN THE NAME OF ALL VENEZUELANS, IN WHICH WITHOUT DISTINCTION AND CONTRADICTIONS I HAVE MADE AN EFFORT TO REPRESENT THE WHOLE FEELING OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE THOUGHT WHICH COULD INTERPRET MY TRIP AS A MANEUVER TO OBTAIN SUPPORT OR AS A WAY TO INFLUENCE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, OR WHICH COULD
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BE POSED AS A MATTER OF CONTROVERSY AS TO WHAT IS VENEZUELA'S

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POSITION ABROAD, HAS MADE ME POSTPONE IT UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS."

2. CALDERA WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAS OBLIGATIONS TO VISIT SANTO DOMINGO TO DEDICATE A MONUMENT TO BOLIVAR AND TO VISIT JAMAICA AT THE INVITATION OF THE LATTER GOVERNMENT (CARACAS 8018 AND PARA 6 OF CARACAS 7215), AND THAT HE INTENDED TO VISIT THESE COUNTRIES AFTER THE DECEMBER 9 ELECTIONS AND "WHEN VENEZUELA'S CIRCUMSTANCES ARE FAVORABLE FOR A BRIEF AND RAPID DEPARTURE ABROAD."

3. CALDERA ALSO NOTED THAT "OTHER POSSIBILITIES" FOR HIS TRAVEL ABROAD HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND COMMENTED UPON, INCLUDING A VISIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. CALDERA COMMENTED THAT "THESE THINGS ARE STILL PURELY HYPOTHETICAL."

4. COMMENT: WHILE CALDERA MADE NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE AS TO HIS INTENTIONS TO VISIT CUBA, HIS STATEMENTS INDICATE THAT HE HAS DETERMINED IT WOULD BE UNHELPFUL TO COPEI'S ELECTORAL PROSPECTS FOR HIM TO TRAVEL TO CUBA BEFORE DECEMBER 9. IT NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE GOV WILL TAKE ACTION TO RECOGNIZE CUBA BEFORE THAT DATE, BUT CALDERA HAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT VAGUE HIS GOVERNMENT'S PLANS IN THAT CONNECTION AFTER THE ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, CALDERA'S STATEMENTS STAND IN STRANGE JUXTAPOSITION TO PRESS REPORTS FROM LIMA QUOTING VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO PERU LEON MORALES AS HAVING STATED THE SAME DAY THAT CONVER-SATIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND CUBA TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS "ARE IN THEIR FINAL STAGE", AND THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS.
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To: STATE
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